

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 1-7.

Initially, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Le for his time, attention, and consideration during the interview that was conducted on May 23, 2007. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that the claims be amended to emphasize the result achieved by the present invention to more clearly distinguish the prior art. The applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion and submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/92049. Claim 1, as amended, defines a stage-geared gearbox for motor vehicles, comprising an unsynchronized basic gearbox, the unsynchronized basic gearbox comprising at least one unsynchronized gear. The stage-geared gearbox also comprises at least one synchronized auxiliary gear, and at least one control unit for controlling engagement of the unsynchronized and synchronized auxiliary gears and neutral positions of the unsynchronized and synchronized gears, wherein, when the control unit receives a driver shift input to put all unsynchronized gears of the basic gearbox in a basic gearbox neutral position, the control unit puts the at least one synchronized auxiliary gear in an auxiliary gear neutral position such that gear reengagement can be secured if an engine of the motor vehicle stops while the unsynchronized gears are in the basic gearbox neutral position.

WO 01/92049 discloses a stage-geared gearbox in which a control unit puts a split gear in a neutral position when an input signal representing zero throttle is detected. WO 01/92049 does not disclose or suggest putting at least one synchronized auxiliary gear in a neutral position when a control unit receives driver shift input to put all unsynchronized gears of the basic gearbox in a

basic gearbox neutral position, such that gear reengagement can be secured if an engine of the motor vehicle stops while the unsynchronized gears are in the basic gearbox neutral position.

In view of the differences between claim 1 and WO 01/92049, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, claims 2-7, are not anticipated by WO 01/92049. Withdrawal of the rejection is cordially urged.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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